# THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

Volume 33, Number 2 www.cgbci.org August 2025

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR IKE GRAHAM**

## CGBCI 2026 Conference
## Jesus and the CGBCI

As we focus on the seven churches of Revelation 2-3 for the 2026 CGBCI Conference, we begin with the church at Ephesus. If you did not get to listen to this message at Conference in July, it will be available on the CGBCI website (cgbci.org). A chart of the seven churches is also available for your study in preparation for the 2026 Conference.

Have you left your first love? That was the problem of the church at Ephesus just about thirty years after it was founded. We would probably think of ourselves and our Fellowship as the church in Ephesus was described by Jesus. Look at Revelation 2:2. That church was…

- Dynamic – "your deeds" ……..They were active and energetic.
- Dedicated – "your toil" ……..They labored for the Lord.
- Determined – "perseverance" ……..They didn't quit
- Disciplined – "cannot endure evil men" They weren't hornswoggled
- Discerning – "put to the test…" ……..They took truth seriously

BUT (notice Revelation 2:4), "you have left your first love." Jesus doesn't say that you "lost" it; He says that you left it. Jesus says to us, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches…" (verse 7). Are you listening? We tend to minimize what God emphasizes. We are into works; God is into heart. We want to show the Lord our list; God asks us where our heart is. If this were a list of ten things and Jesus says, "There is a huge, big-time problem," how will we respond? "Lord, come on now! I got nine out of ten! It doesn't get much better than that!" Jesus says, "The engine is missing." Sure, the car looks great. Shiny new paint job, new tires, refurbished interior, full tank of gas, fresh oil change, but the engine is missing. Are you and I really ready to own up to a giant sin that we have? We are excuse makers. We patronize God by telling Him all the things that we do for Him and that's why we can't do this one thing that we know that we should. Besides, God will understand. After all, nine of ten is good! We put ourselves in charge and call the shots. How is this an intimate relationship with the living Lord Jesus Christ? I want to hear, "Well done!" when I meet the Savior; NOT "Well, somehow you got it done." Focus now on Revelation 2:5 for the solution. If we don't, then we may not last on this present earth until the rapture comes.

## 2026 CONFERENCE DETAILS

During the time that the CGBCI website is being updated to take reservations and meal orders, look over the room layouts on the Laurelville website (Laurelville.org). Then, you can plan which room and what meals you wish when the website reservation is ready. When the CGBCI website is ready, you will be able to make your reservation, choose your meals and pay online. Pricing is for July 1-6, 2026. Pricing is all inclusive as follows:

- o Solar House/Guest House $143 (42 rooms)
- o Laurel Inn Motel $115 (8 rooms)
- o Single family cabins $170 (2 cabins)
- o Cottages (sleeps up to 16) $350 (4 cottages)
- o RV camp sites $55 (July 3, 2026 sites are taken)
- o Tent camp sites $35

Meals would be Breakfast-$12; Lunch-$15; Dinner-$18 and children ½ price (0-2 no cost). There is a snack shop at the Welcome Center and there are kitchens in the Guest House and the Solar House. Mt. Pleasant, PA is 4 miles away.

**THE REFUGE CHURCH, SOUTH WHITLEY – PASTOR BRYAN MALEY**

It has been quite some time since I last communicated with you, and I apologize for the long silence. Over the past year and a half, I have been navigating several challenges. Unfortunately, The Refuge has been unable to support me full-time, so I have secured part-time employment, which at times has been a blessing. Currently, I serve as a transport officer for the Whitley County Sheriff's Department, transporting inmates throughout Indiana and occasionally to Michigan and Ohio. I also continue to serve as the Chaplain for the Sheriff's Department. This role can be demanding but deeply rewarding. We are preparing to hold baptisms for inmates within the jail. Several deputies and confinement officers attend our Sunday morning worship services, and we hold a Bible study for deputies at our church building on the last Friday of each month at 5:30 a.m. Additionally, I am finalizing plans for a new Bible study at the Sheriff's Department for deputies, confinement officers, and dispatchers starting in September. We will also begin a young adults' study at the church alongside the resumption of our Adult Bible study in September.

As many of you know, I experienced a deeply painful loss on June 27 when I found my mother after she took her own life. This has been an incredibly difficult time for me, and I have faced many spiritual battles along the way. In response to this, a few strong believers from The Refuge, the Sheriff's Department, and the healthcare community have come together to create a new ministry called "Rooted and Restored." This ministry aims to provide biblically-based resources to those struggling with mental health challenges—a need that currently lacks sufficient support in Whitley County. While there is one group that claims to be faith-based, it does not align with biblical truth. Our goal is to keep this ministry strictly grounded in Scripture and free from secular influence. Areas of focus will include Adoption Support, Families of Suicide, Families affected by Dementia, and Addiction. We plan to use our

church building to host trained facilitators who will lead these support groups, while our church community offers ongoing care and ministry. To complement spiritual healing, we will also offer practical classes such as sourdough baking, beekeeping, homesteading, and operating CNC/Laser equipment.

It is my heartfelt desire to return to full-time ministry. The church family has taken a leap of faith by extending a raise to help support me. While it's not yet full-time support, it is a positive step forward, and our people are committed to working toward full-time ministry support. Our weekly attendance averages twenty – twenty-five people, with occasional weeks surpassing thirty. As I compose this update, I am also preparing for a baptism this evening—a deputy and his fiancée, whom I have been witnessing to for about a year. The Lord is truly at work, though we remain vigilant against the schemes of Satan.

Please keep the church in your prayers as we continue reaching out to our community and standing firm against the spiritual warfare we face. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.

## PRAYER REQUEST – PASTOR RON WELSH

I am requesting our Fellowship to join with me in prayer for a future Jewish ministry within the CGBCI. We would humbly petition our God to direct and enable us in this endeavor, in His Sovereign will (John 4:22b; 14:13-14; Rom.10:1).
Shalom, Pastor Ron Welsh, email- ronaldwelsh87@gmail.com or (219)304-6008

## NEW TROY GBC – PASTOR ROBERT MENSINGER

God is continuing to bless here at New Troy. Our attendances and offerings have been holding up well despite our small numbers. We had 10 visitors for our morning service two Sundays ago.

My wife Lila had her fifth round of chemo and booster shots. She has been slowly recovering from this treatment. She is scheduled for her sixth round of treatments later this month. Hopefully, she will not need any more of these treatments. She is scheduled for a scan September 4, and a follow-up meeting with her oncologist on September 8. We are praying for a good report!

Pastor Ron Welsh is wrapping up his study in Leviticus for our adult Sunday school class and is preparing to begin a study in Hebrews. He may have to go back to substitute teaching to supplement his income but is seeking something more substantial.
I continue to preach through Revelation and am now in chapter thirteen. The series is going very well and is well received.

My Brother Eddie Mensinger is scheduled to be here on Sunday, August 31 to preach for the morning service. A pot-luck dinner will follow. Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

---

*"The Voice Newsletter"* is the communication tool of the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International; and edited by Pastor Les Vnasdale. **News Articles and/or Mailing Updates:** Please forward all info to Pastor Chris Knight at cgbcivoicenews@gmail.com